

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-32 as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method to immobilise at least one type of carbohydrate molecule comprising the steps of:
 - i) providing a monomer source;
 - ii) creating a plasma of said monomer;
 - iii) coating a surface with said plasma to provide a plasma polymer coated surface; and
 - iv) contacting said polymer coated surface with at least one type of carbohydrate molecule wherein the carbohydrate molecule is in its native form.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the carbohydrate is passively adsorbed to the plasma polymer coated surface.
3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the carbohydrate is provided as a solution comprising at least one carbohydrate molecule.
4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein the monomer is a volatile alcohol.
5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein the monomer is a volatile amine.
6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein the monomer is a volatile hydrocarbon.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein the monomer is a volatile acid.
8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the surface comprises a polymer comprising a nitrogen content of at least 2%.
9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 8 wherein the nitrogen content is 2-20%.
10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 to 7 wherein the surface comprises a polymer comprising a nitrogen content greater than 20%.
11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1, 2 or 3~~ wherein the monomer contains a hydroxyl, amino or carboxylic acid group.
12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the monomer is allylamine.
13. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the monomer has a vapour pressure of at least 6.6×10^{-2} mbar at ambient room temperature.
14. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the plasma polymer is deposited from a plasma of WIFM of $< 10^9$ J/kg and ideally $< 10^8$ J/Kg and more ideally $< 10^7$ J/Kg.
15. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein the polymer comprises an amine co-polymer.
16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the co-polymer is prepared by the plasma polymerisation of an organic amine with a saturated (alkane) or unsaturated (alkene, diene or alkyne) hydrocarbon of up to 20 carbons.
17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the carbohydrate is a homopolysaccharide.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 16~~ wherein the carbohydrate is a heteropolysaccharide.
19. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the heteropolysaccharide is a glycosaminoglycan.
20. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the glycosaminoglycan is selected from the group consisting of: hyaluronan; dermatan sulfate; chondroitin sulphate; heparin; heparan sulphate; or keratan sulphate.
21. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any preceding claim 1~~ wherein the surface is part of a biosensor.
22. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~ wherein the surface is part of a therapeutic vehicle.
23. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~ wherein the surface is part of a device wherein said device is used in the collection of biological samples from an animal, preferably a human.
24. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~ wherein the surface is part of an affinity purification matrix.
25. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~ wherein the surface is part of a micro array.
26. (Currently Amended) A biosensor comprising a surface obtainable by the method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~.
27. (Currently Amended) A therapeutic vehicle comprising a surface obtainable by the method as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~.

28. (Currently Amended) A sample collection device comprising a surface obtainable by the method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 20.

29. (Currently Amended) An affinity purification matrix comprising a surface obtainable by the method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 20.

30. (Currently Amended) A microarray comprising a surface obtainable by the method as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 20.

31. (Original) A surface obtainable by plasma polymerisation to which is immobilised at least one type of carbohydrate molecule wherein the carbohydrate molecule is in its native form.

32. (Original) A surface as claimed in claim 31 wherein the carbohydrate molecule is passively adsorbed to the surface.